

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 744
2 INTRODUCED BY G. KMETZ

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A STUDENT IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM
5 INITIATING OR PARTICIPATING IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT RELIGION, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, OR
6 RELIGIOUS PRACTICES WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OR A TEACHER; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-112,
7 MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 20-7-112, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"20-7-112. Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted.** (1) A publication of a sectarian
13 or denominational character may not be distributed in any school. Instruction may not be given advocating
14 sectarian or denominational doctrines. However, any teacher, principal, or superintendent may open the school
15 day with a prayer.

16 (2) This section does not prohibit:

17 (a) a school library from including the Bible or other religious material having cultural, historical, or
18 educational significance; or

19 (b) a student from initiating or participating in a conversation about religion, religious beliefs, or
20 religious practices with another student or a teacher."

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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